

From: SatGuru
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 4:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

Proposed settlement is too lenient.

I feel that the proposed settlement does not impose enough sanctions and restrictions on Microsoft. The settlement falls far short of penalizing Microsoft for their unfair use of monopoly power in the past and does little to restrain their future use of their monopoly position.

Further, their proposal to "pay back" to the community by "giving" Microsoft products to schools and other public institutions (but not give support) is ridiculous. It would only extend their monopoly further without costing them a single red-cent. On the other hand .. if they refunded all payments made to Microsoft from public institutions for past product purchases and support .. now THAT would be meaningful.

Microsoft is clearly a monopoly and clearly uses monopoly power to bully its way around the marketplace to push viable competitors into closing their doors.

Microsoft should be forced to choose to be either a platform vendor or an application vendor. It was wrong for them to assume both roles. By 1995 at least, and probably earlier, they should have spun off the applications business (Office products, primarily) into a separate independent business. By keeping both, they effectively shutdown (or shutout) most business application vendors, by competing unfairly.

For other vendors to make their own operating systems is like suggesting that other phone companies run duplicate wires and telephone poles in every neighborhood. When an operating system becomes that pervasive it should be treated like a public utility, like part of the national infrastructure, not owned by anyone, but supported by the public, for the public good.

Sincerely,
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